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**April 6, 2017**

The Daily Mississippian

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# MISSISSIPPIAN

THE STUDENT NEWSPAPER OF THE UNIVERSITY OF MISSISSIPPI SERVING OLE MISS AND OXFORD SINCE 1911 [Visit theDOnline.com](http://theDOnline.com) [@thedm\\_news](https://twitter.com/thedm_news)

## WHAT'S INSIDE...

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**JoJo Hermann returns** to Oxford tonight

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## WHAT'S ONLINE...

**Golfers hoping** to leave Masters legacy

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## Mental Health Week continues with 'Southern Smash'



PHOTOS BY: XINYI SONG

Associated Student Body and nonprofit group Active Minds host "Smash the Scale" in the Grove as a part of Mental Health Week to promote weight consciousness.

**JACQUELINE KNIRNSCHILD SLADE RAND**

thedmnews@gmail.com

The Associated Student Body and nonprofit group Active Minds at the University of Mississippi partnered together this week to host 2017's Mental Health Week on campus. Wednesday, the Active Minds invited students to smash scales with baseball bats and sledgehammers in front of the Grove stage to promote self confidence and weight consciousness.

"Mental health is important to every individual on our Ole Miss campus and it's time to speak up, educate ourselves, and make everyone aware. This week, we're loving our minds and changing our habits," ASB wrote on its Facebook page.

Southern Smash participants decorated the scales before smashing them, replacing the numbers with phrases such as, "These numbers don't define me" and "You're beautiful. Don't let your mind bully your body." Active Minds also hosted the week's second free yoga session on the Grove stage on Wednesday afternoon, shortly after the smashed scales were swept away.

"We are trying to smash-

ing stigmas and expectations of body image," Active Minds President Kathryn Forbes said.

Active Minds manages a Twitter account where it shares simple but encouraging messages for UM students. "Smile because you can" one tweet reads. Another tweet reminded students to always end the day on a positive thought. "Southern Smash" served as yet another platform for the group to promote self confidence among the student body.

Wednesday afternoon, students also attached cards with anxiety-causing thoughts written on them to balloons and released them to the sky. Afterwards, students were encouraged to write down something they love about themselves to hang up in a place where they will see it every day.

"Mental Health Week" has included other events, such as a visit from the Humane Society's puppies, free yoga and meditation in the Grove and a student athletic panel.

The organization will also host a Suicide Awareness Event at 5:30 p.m. Thursday at Farley featuring UPD, representatives from the counseling center and Rivers McGraw's mother.

## Cancer survivor inspires Emmy-winning documentary

**JONATHAN GIBSON**  
thedmnews@gmail.com

Last summer the Ole Miss Sports Production team took home a regional Emmy for its work on the documentary "Sam's Story," and on March 22, Ole Miss athletic director Ross Bjork presented the documentary's subject with his own Emmy.

Sam Farris was diagnosed with stage four neuroblastoma, a rare form of childhood cancer, in 2007. Over the next five years, Farris and his family struggled to

cope as he fought the illness and underwent treatment.

Farris' best friend, junior Seth Dickinson, said he was blindsided by the diagnosis as a child.

"I didn't really understand life and death and your life being threatened," Dickinson said. "I remember the day I found out, right before we entered fifth grade, my mother told me Sam had cancer. In my mind I didn't comprehend it."

That summer, the Make-A-Wish Foundation granted Farris' wish to have a baseball field built in his backyard, with help from the

Ole Miss grounds crew. His parents said this was a turning point in his fight, giving him and the rest of the family the motivation to keep pushing on.

By 2011, Farris was in remission.

The documentary, though, wouldn't begin until spring 2015.

Farris reached out to Athletics Director Ross Bjork with his Make-A-Wish story for the first time. He sent an email to Bjork with pictures of the baseball field.

Farris waited for a reply.



PHOTO BY: ARIEL COBBERT

SEE **FARRIS** PAGE 3

Sam Farris



COLUMN

# Contacting legislature is integral in tuition funding



**NESTOR DELGADO**  
thedmopinion@gmail.com

The Mississippi legislature has sent Ole Miss a warning.

Just last week, the Office of Financial Aid sent out an email stating that “The legislature has eliminated the ‘stacking’ of undergraduate grants. If a student is eligible for more than one grant program, students

will receive aid through the program that will award the larger amount... The following grants are included in this new rule: Mississippi Tuition Assistance Grant (MTAG), Mississippi Eminent Scholars Grant (MESG), Higher Education Legislative Plan for Needy Students (HELP), Mississippi Law Enforcement Officers & Firemen Scholarship (LAW), Nissan Scholarship.”

This might mark the beginning of the end of tuition affordability at the University of Mississippi.

It first begins with amendments such as the one students received an email about, then the legislature decides to cut grant programs altogether, and then it withdraws funding from the

university as a whole.

There have been other states, such as Arizona, where the legislature has taken these very steps to slowly dial back from supporting public universities for a variety of political reasons.

Just within the past few years, as in-state tuition has increased from \$6,300 in 2010 to \$10,640 in 2016 at Arizona State University, student coalitions have been established, such as “Students for Affordable Tuition,” as a reaction to the state legislature removing significant amounts of funding to public institutions.

Given this, I believe we are currently on the same trajectory as Arizona State University.

However, we, as a student

body, have a chance to be proactive and preserve our tuition affordability so that students, in-state, out-of-state and international, of all socioeconomic backgrounds have the opportunity to attend the University of Mississippi.

To me, the University of Mississippi has made decisions within the past few years that were rushed, unwarranted and fueled by emotion rather than reason.

There are things in this state that are worth looking into. However, we made decisions that some believed would solve the problem but instead led to unintended political consequences.

As a student body, we need to stop stepping on the heels of Jackson and instead reach

out to our state representatives and senators, sit down with them and voice our concerns.

Acting in defiance to those who subsidize this university without discussion will do nothing but tarnish our relationship with the state legislature, alumni of this university and future students.

The legislature is sending us a warning, and if we act wisely, we will end the culture of acting emotionally and instead harvest an environment where we work with our legislature to maintain affordable tuition at the University of Mississippi.

*Nestor Delgado is a sophomore public policy leadership major from Pascagoula.*

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Letters should be typed, double-spaced and no longer than 300 words. Letters may be edited for clarity, space or libel. Third-party letters and those bearing pseudonyms, pen names or “name withheld” will not be published. Publication is limited to one letter per individual per calendar month.

Letters should include phone and email contact information so that editors can verify authenticity. Letters from students should include grade classification and major; letters from faculty and staff should include title and the college, school or department where the person is employed.

## FARRIS

*continued from page 1*

Weeks passed and Farris had almost given up on the story when he finally heard back from the sports production team. The team wanted to make a short video about his battle with cancer.

"When they first came to me about it, it was one of those 'awe moments,' one of those speechless moments where you don't know what to think or say but you're excited to be doing it," Farris said.

Things moved quickly from there.

"At the time, I didn't understand what that meant," Farris said. "I thought it was going to be a hype video used on one of the sites or something. When the production team explained

it more in detail and told me the extent of what they wanted to do, it was humbling."

The production team, made up of Chris Sabo, Micah Ginn, John Lassiter and Stewart Pirani, worked tirelessly over the next several months, compiling interviews and capturing footage of Farris and his family.

Farris' initial interview took about two hours.

The team travelled to Farris' hometown, Mantachie, to interview his parents and brother.

After final interviews were done with Make-A-Wish employees and the former Ole Miss athletics director, filming was complete.

The video was released in October 2015. Farris said the final product was better than he could have ever expected.

"It was mind-blowing,"

Farris said. "It looked like something that was made in a professional studio in California. It was 16 minutes of hard-core, moving, heavy stuff. It was absolutely awesome to see they had put that sort of effort into my life. I was very appreciative of the work they put in and very impressed with the final product."

Farris was in Memphis, Tennessee, participating in a St. Jude golf tournament when he first heard the documentary won a regional Emmy award for Best One-Time Sports Feature.

"It didn't sink in at first when he said we won the Emmy," Farris said. "Then he sent me a picture of it while he was on the phone

with me. I hung up afterwards and sat on the bed in my hotel room and thought, you know, this is unbelievable. It was powerful to take all that in."

Director John Lassiter said Farris' story was exciting to work with because of its power and tie-in with Ole Miss athletics.

"As a documentary producer, these are the kinds of stories you die for," Lassiter said. "When you see something like this come across your desk, you just think, 'This is it. This is the story I want to tell.'"

Lassiter said he felt mixed emotions the night he and his team won the Emmy.

"For me, more than anything, I felt like Sam's sto-

ry deserved the award more than our production of it," Lassiter said. "His battle was incredible, and to see how well he's doing now is amazing. As happy as I was for me and our team, I was just as happy for Sam. I was so excited to share that news with him."

Farris said sharing his story with the community was an honor, and he and his family are not afraid of using his story to inspire and make differences in other people's lives.

"There's an opportunity for me to share my story and my experiences in a way that might help someone else," Farris said. "You never know who your story might touch."

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# JoJo's Slim Wednesday kicks off Southern tour tonight

**SLADE RAND**

thedmfeatres@gmail.com

“Sometimes things happen in places where maybe you wouldn’t expect them.”

Keyboardist John “JoJo” Hermann moved to Oxford from his childhood home in 1986 and said he believes a part of him has really never left, despite internationally touring with the band Widespread Panic.

The New York City kid grew up wearing out records by the likes of Professor Longhair, The Funky Meters and George Porter Jr. Hermann said he still remembers the first time he heard their sound and the way it shaped his own playing style. This spring, he’s taking his Mardi Gras band on the road again to show-

case the funk in front of local audiences.

“I think we can call ourselves the No. 1 Nashville-based Professor Longhair cover band,” Hermann said. “We’ve got our own little niche, I guess.”

JoJo’s Slim Wednesday will kick off a run of seven April shows in small venues across the South Thursday night at Proud Larry’s on the Square. Hermann last played the Proud Larry’s stage in 2012 with fellow New Yorker Sherman Ewing under the moniker Missing Cats.

Hermann has played and written music in Oxford since 1986, most prolifically with the local band Beanland. Hermann said the band, named for guitarist George McConnell’s address on Beanland Drive, was al-



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  - 23 Banqueted
  - 24 Bete —
  - 26 Bear down
  - 27 Lure
  - 29 Persil rival
  - 31 Aloha tokens
  - 32 Dainty ornament
  - 33 Bark or yelp
  - 36 Zebras’ motto (3 wds.)
  - 40 Pointy-shoe wearer
  - 41 Got into port
  - 42 Pre-Tina Turner
  - 43 Sponges up
  - 44 Broccoli bit
  - 46 Fleeces
  - 48 Jumbo shrimp
  - 49 Gem of an oyster
  - 50 Fluctuates (hyph.)
- DOWN**
- 1 One who reunites
  - 2 Ms. Kudrow
  - 3 Defendant’s adversary
  - 4 Old crone
  - 5 Acid in vinegar
  - 6 Cost estimate
  - 7 Lahore language
  - 8 Cow-headed goddess
  - 9 Karate level
  - 10 More wacky
  - 11 Foretellings
  - 12 Drama awards
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  - 22 Ending for depart
  - 23 Fantasy
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PREVIOUS PUZZLE SOLVED

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- 27 If not
- 28 “Hud” Oscar-winner
- 29 Motion pictures
- 30 Bridge holding
- 32 Rake tooth
- 33 Longings
- 34 Drury Lane composer
- 35 Exam for jrs.
- 37 Gabardine, e.g.
- 38 Shrill barks
- 39 — hot and cold
- 43 Go downhill
- 44 Curly coil, for short
- 45 Thunked, as a tail
- 46 Tearful
- 47 Bucket of song
- 48 Traffic cone
- 49 Flake off, as paint
- 50 Sturdy lock
- 51 Popular cookie
- 53 Give off fumes
- 54 Appends
- 56 “—, Tiki”
- 58 Sonnet cousin

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ready filling clubs covering standard songs by the time its drummer asked him to sit in on keys. He said original songs like “Take Me to the Show” and “Doreatha” drew him to the band in the early days.

“It was just good times,” Hermann said. “I never dreamed there was a place like Oxford growing up in the city. It really hit me upside the head.”

Hermann played with Beanland in Oxford for years before joining Athens-based Widespread Panic in March 1992. He said Beanland came together by happenstance and, as most

SEE JOJO'S PAGE 7

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**JOJO'S**  
*continued from page 6*

bands did at the time, covered many Grateful Dead songs.

"The thing I loved about the Dead was their records," Hermann said. "I didn't follow them on tour, really. I wasn't one of the people who traded the bootlegs."

Hermann's style of playing has its roots in New Orleans' homegrown funk and the Grateful Dead's studio albums. The Rascals' "Good Lovin,'" a Grateful Dead live staple, was one of the first songs he learned on piano.

He said Professor Longhair's 1985 album "Rock n Roll Gumbo" left a lasting impression him as a teenager, as well.

"I looked at music that way," Hermann said. "Not so much segregating the sound, but so much that everything is part of one big sound."

Hermann said he is lucky to have had the opportunity to play onstage with so many of his musical heroes, most recently with Meters bassist George Porter Jr. in Mexico.

"The minute his fingers touch those bass strings, you hear that sound that's on the records that you wore

out," Hermann said. "I'll never forget when I played with Zigaboo, the drummer. The first time he played that snare, I was like, 'Oh my God, I know that sound.'"

Both Porter and drummer Zigaboo Modeliste were founding members of New Orleans funk group The Meters. Hermann said the Meters laid the basis for the sound he focuses on with JoJo's Slim Wednesday.

"The Meters are really the trunk, the roots of the tree that you know the whole scene came out of, and anybody who plays a funky beat to me comes through The Meters," he said.

Hermann said he tours

with this Mardi Gras band for pure fun more than anything else, and he planned the tour itself around crawfish season. The band used to only play during Mardi Gras, but the crawfish were not as good as in the spring. He said the smaller venues and relaxed crowds on these tours offer an alternative to playing in front of a sold-out arena or at Red Rocks.

"Yeah, you know, it's just for fun. That's what I love about it," Hermann said. "It's the music I played in my living room for decades and still play in my living room when I'm alone."

After his homecoming celebration in Oxford, Her-

mann will hit the road for six more shows in seven days across four states. He said he did not want to leave the South on this tour and hopes to bring a little bit of New Orleans music and crawfish to each of the venues he hits.

This summer, Hermann will be on the festival circuit with Widespread Panic, as well as returning to Red Rocks for the band's annual June residency.

"Music is about the fun and having fun and good times, and I think every place we picked is basically based in that same idea," he said.

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# The view from left field: Softball's biggest fans

GRAYSON WEIR

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On the outskirts of Ole Miss' main campus lies a gem hidden in the collegiate softball world, one that is home to the No. 24 Rebels.

Having only founded a fast-pitch program in 1997, the women in red and blue continue to rise in the rankings. Coming off of a 2016 campaign that shattered attendance records and ended with the team's first ever appearance in the NCAA Tournament, the 2017 season is off to a 25-11 start, including a 12 inning marathon win over Central Arkansas on Tuesday.

Even for winning programs, women's sports often have a tough time drawing as large a crowd as their male counterparts – Rebel softball being the exception, thanks in large part to the Left Field Hecklers.

Founded by Anthony Depreo and Michael Wilson, the growing group of faithful fans can be found at every home game, usually shirtless, drinking Palm Breeze sparkling spritzers. The duo, who founded the @HecklerLeft Twitter account, has gained a steady following with the Rebel faithful.

"We've enjoyed being a part of what's been one of the best

seasons in the program's history thus far," Depreo said. "Coach Mike Smith and the team have been great and have told us how much they appreciate our support. Everyone should come out and support our nationally ranked squad."

While some traditions, like writing on the warm-up ball in between half innings, have carried from diamond to diamond, the left field gang has brought a few traditions of its own to the ball park – in the form of a hot dog suit and lots of dancing.

Hank Williams IV, who is known as The @LeftField-Dancer, saw an opportunity to devote his fandom to the Lady Rebs and ran with it. Well, danced with it. No matter the weather, the time of day or the day of week, you can find Williams with his shirt off, moving and grooving like there's no tomorrow.

"Swayze is like PCB, while left field [at softball games] is more like the Virgin Islands," Williams said. "It's much more laid back, but just as enjoyable."

When it comes to heckling, the assemblage of rowdy Rebels stray away from the ruthless berating of the players so often found at baseball games and look more toward humor and thought-provoking quips.



PHOTO BY: CAMERON BROOKS

Fans cheer on Rebels in the left field as they took on University of Central Arkansas Tuesday. Ole Miss won 1-0 after 12 innings.

Keeli Milligan, the left fielder for Texas A&M, was subject to constant chirp-artistry for its three-game series in mid-March. Milligan, who tweeted before the series that one day a boy would bring her flowers and she would be brought to tears, was greeted with flowers from the left field faithful.

While the Rebels dropped three close games to the No. 7 Aggies, the hecklers made a name for themselves within the dugout.

"I loved the hecklers and how they heckle in a tasteful and fun way that everyone can enjoy, which is difficult to do,"

Milligan said. "I found myself questioning whether a hot dog is really a sandwich quite a bit during the game and think their heckling can definitely make a difference. We had a really fun time with the guys out there."

The dugout is not the only place where their presence has been noticed. With the nationally ranked Rebels having nearly every one of their games broadcast on SEC Network, there has been a clear draw from the cameras and announcers.

"The atmosphere in left field can be something special,"

Ryan Arneson, who often times can be found in the hot dog suit (@LeftFieldHotdog), said. "The players can actually hear what you're saying and seem to enjoy interacting with us; it's a great time for any Rebel fan. I would love to see more people come out and support our team at these games."

The Rebels head to Auburn this weekend for a three game series against the Tigers. First pitch is scheduled for Friday night at 6 pm.

*This article was submitted to The Daily Mississippian from an advanced reporting class.*



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